

Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship
November 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research

Present: Cliff Ashburner, Dr. Don Colliver, Tom FitzGerald, Kelley Kline, Dr. Len Peters, Ken Seibert, John Wright

Also present: John Davies, DEDI; Andrew Marsh, Conn Center; Kate Shanks, DEDI; Karen Wilson, EEC

Certification of Open Meeting

Media was notified 11/18/2011

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Len Peters

August 16, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

Distributed Renewable Energy Presentation

Presentation by Cliff Ashburner followed by discussion of the board.

Mr. Ashburner presented information about third party ownership of distributed renewable energy systems and the use of power purchase agreements (PPA) between owners and consumers of the renewable electricity. It appears as though third party arrangements are not allowed in Kentucky because utilities have exclusive rights to sell power. There was discussion about deregulated electricity markets and choice for electricity providers. Other states that have deregulated have seen costs increase. Simply allowing PPAs in Kentucky may not bring about the development expected. The cost of the renewable energy system along with electricity costs avoided, renewable energy credit values and incentives must be considered when determining if a PPA is economically viable. The board discussed the value of allowing PPAs for schools and other non-taxed entities. Green schools may provide a good avenue to bring this about. They have different payback period requirements and an educational interest. There was also discussion of the current net metering bill and the need to extend the cap on net metered system capacity (30 kilowatts). There was also discussion of the Public Service Commission opening a case to define avoided cost as it pertains to Qualifying Facilities.

The board discussed endorsing the idea of working towards permitting PPAs in Kentucky. Dr. Peters asked staff and Mr. Ashburner to develop a concept paper to distribute to the board.

There was brief discussion of the legislative process in general.

Dr. Colliver discussed his proposal for Kentucky to be considered for the solar decathlon in 2013.

Conn Center Update

Andrew Marsh

Mr. Marsh discussed several initiatives of the Conn Center including recent proposals submitted for funding. Mr. Marsh discussed the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency conference planned for 2012 and extended an invitation to the board to participate. He also discussed plans to develop the consortium on biomass/biofuel and approval for continued support under the DOE-EPSCOR program. Mr. Marsh discussed the publicity campaign and communications strategy.

Next Steps

Mr. FitzGerald discussed the need for a strategic plan for the board. He offered to find a facilitator who can provide a strategic plan 101 overview for the board at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda

PPA provider concept paper

Strategic planning overview session